

Mid-East Prophecy Update – March 25th, 2012

- For today's prophecy update, I believe I've been directed by the Holy Spirit to talk about something so terrible, yet so needful in these last days.
- I'll begin by asking a question with the hope that the answer from scripture might fill in some of the blanks as well as connect the prophetic dots.
- Have you noticed that it's becoming infinitely more difficult to live a godly life, raise godly children, and have a godly marriage as time goes on?

- Perhaps a better way to put it is that as time goes on, it seems to get harder, as we become increasingly unpopular as Christians in this world.
- From my perspective as your pastor I can tell you that it's getting worse by the week, for the body of Christ, as His church in these the last days.
- I suppose it shouldn't come as any surprise, in the sense that we were forewarned, with that which was foretold by the saints of old in the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 NIV But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. (2) People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, (3) without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, (4) treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— (5) having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

"Second Timothy 3:1-5 gives nineteen characteristics of apostasy in the last days. ...we need to recognize that the conditions described ...are conditions within the church. Obviously, the kinds of sins listed here have always been prevalent in society at large. The shocking thing here in 2 Timothy 3 is that these sins have now come into the church. Professing Christians are pictured living on the lowest level. The entire context of 2 Timothy 3 is describing people who profess to know God and hold to a form of godliness, yet deny its power. ...the chief sin of the last-days apostasy, the one that heads the list, is 'For men will be lovers of self.' Self love is the polluted fountain from which the other eighteen characteristics flow. It is followed by 'lovers of money' and then later comes 'lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.' What a description of the visible church today!"

Mark Hitchcock, "Seven Signs of the End Times"

47 Years Ago, in 1965, Paul Harvey in a profoundly prophetic piece he titled; "If I Were The Devil" said; "If I were the devil, I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree... So I'd set about however necessary to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first — I would begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: 'Do as you please. Do as you please.' 'To the young, I would whisper, 'The Bible is a myth.' I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what is bad is good, and what is good is 'square.' ...And then I'd get organized. ...I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd pedal narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills. If I were the devil I'd soon have families that war with themselves, churches that war with themselves, and nations that war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames. If I were the devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, and neglect to discipline emotions... "Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing, I'd have judges promoting pornography — soon I could evict God from the courthouse, and then the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deify science. ...If I were the devil I'd make the symbols of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle. "If I were the devil I'd take from those, who have, and give to those who wanted until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. ...I would question against extremes and hard work, and Patriotism, and moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging more fun, that what you see on the TV is the way to be. And thus I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were to devil I'd keep on doing on what he's doing. Paul Harvey, good day."

Fast-forward to four years ago in 2008 with a list of 33 statistics by Andy McAdams titled; "The Condition of the Church in America"

1. 1,400 pastors in America leave the ministry monthly.
3. Only 15% of churches in the United States are growing and just less than 5% of those are growing by conversion growth.
4. 10,000 churches in America disappeared in a five-year period.
7. The Bible Belt still boasts the highest percentage of church attendees, yet many ... are filled with legalism or extreme liberalism.
8. The vast majority of churches have an attendance of less than 75.
9. In 70 % of the churches in America, the pastor is the only full-time staff person
16. Only 60% of Christians say they are deeply committed to their faith, yet 85% of evangelicals make this claim.
17. Among the 71% of those who have heard of spiritual gifts, 31% can name a spiritual gift they believe they possess.
19. Less than 50% say that the Bible is totally accurate, yet 60% of those claim to be born-again.
21. 56% of the population believe salvation can be earned. Shockingly, 26% are among evangelicals.
23. Out of 100,000 churches in America less than 2% are considered mega-churches, (1,000 or more).
25. 1 out of 4 church attendees are considered church hoppers.
29. This Sunday almost 25 percent of married, churchgoing women will worship without their husbands.
30. As many as 90 percent of the boys who are being raised in church will abandon it by their 20th birthday. Many of these boys will never return.
31. 88% of children from Evangelical churches will leave the church after High School.
32. And estimated 15 to 20 million people now in America have said they are Christians but they simply don't want to be a part of the church.

2 Timothy 4:3-5 (3) For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. (4) They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

- This prophecy happens to be one of the main reasons that I both believe and teach that the rapture of the church can happen at anytime now.
- I say that because Israel is existing, Iran and other's are threatening, Syria is falling, the U.S. is rapidly declining, and the church is deteriorating.
- With these and other last day's prophecies all beginning to come to pass in concert together, we can know that Jesus is even now at the door.